





The final horn was installed (shown above) at Plum Brook's Reverberant Acoustic Test Facility (RATF) in Sandusky, Ohio. The RATF is part of the NASA Glenn Research Center's Space Power Facility, which houses the world's largest Space Environment Simulation Chamber. The RATF will accommodate high-power acoustic testing of large space vehicles and be one of the largest and most powerful in the world, reaching an overall sound pressure level of 163 dB in the empty chamber. Final sub-system installations and checkouts will occur during the next two months, followed by contractor integrated system commissioning of the RATF. Renovation is expected to be complete next spring.

Congratulations to the Orion Pad Abort-1 Systems Engineering Team (PA-1 SE team) on being selected by The Office of the Chief Engineer as a recipient of the annual NASA Systems Engineering Award. Each center nominated several highly deserving projects, each worthy of recognition. NASA engineering leadership noted that systems engineering is a core competency of NASA's highly skilled workforce and has been recognized as one of the "secrets" of the Agencies success in the Apollo program and many other programs and projects since then. The Office of the Chief Engineer will present the award to the PA-1 SE team at the Program Management Challenge in February.





Drilling for the Crew Module (CM)
Ground Test Article (GTA) TPS
Attachment Structure (TAS) has been completed at the Michoud Assembly
Facility in New Orleans, Louisiana.
With the completion of the drilling and installation of fasteners, the CM GTA is now ready to be moved to the 7139
Assembly Fixture (shown left.) There, the team will install all of the secondary structures and mass simulators that are needed for the structure/vibration testing.
Once complete, the CM GTA will be shipped to Denver for Heatshield installation in January.

Communications and Public Outreach

Lockheed Martin's Exploration Development Lab (EDL) has had several media visitors this month learning about the EDL and the overall status of the Orion Project. Shown right is former shuttle commander Pam Melroy greeting CNN's John Zarrella in front of the Cockpit Operators Station Mockup. In addition, Silicon.com reporter Nick Heath from London took an in-depth tour of the facility.





The Orion Launch Abort System (LAS) Pathfinder (shown left) continued it's tour across the country with a stop at the Langley Research Center in Virginia. The LAS pathfinder participated in NASA Langley Research Center's Parade and Car Show sponsored by the CFC (Combined Federal Campaign) and Langley Emerging Professional Committee before traveling to the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Center in Florida for the conclusion of the tour.

